

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2004 LB 841, 1224

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 841, no E & Rs. I do have amendments to the bill. Senator Byars, Senator, I had, first of all, AM2672, but I had a note that you would like to withdraw that particular amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, likewise, Senator, with AM2813.

SENATOR BYARS: That is correct.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It also is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Byars would move to amend with AM2965. (Legislative Journal page 932.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, you're recognized to open on AM2965 to LB 841. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, members of the body. I'm actually going to bring a bill to you today that is going to provide funding to the state of Nebraska rather than cost us from the General Fund, and that is a very good feeling in these very, very tight budget times. You'll remember on General File LB 841 as we had some discussion relative to what is an ICFMR, and I will remind you it's an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded. We have a situation where over the past 20 or 25 years we're providing tax exempt status to those not-for-profit ICFMRs, but we needed to put in statute what we were doing in practice. So LB 849...LB 841 provided us with that statutory change. The Revenue Committee also heard and wasn't ready to advance at the time, but is on Select...did after we heard testimony, LB 1224, which was brought to my attention because other states have used this innovative plan from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to access additional funding. And Bob Seiffert, who is the Director of Medicaid for Nebraska has had preliminary discussions with CMS and they have given a tentative okay to our plan. Now this would not preclude us, we have to do the appropriate filing and then they will give us their final approval. But, basically, what we're asking to do is a similar process to what we did with the IGT or the